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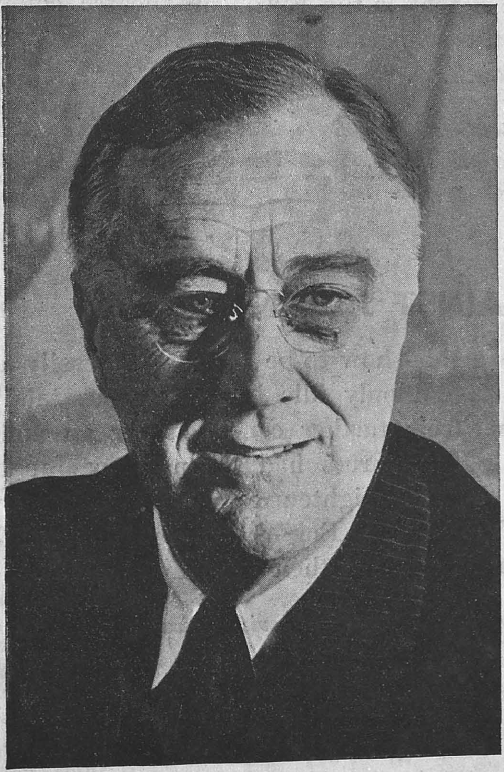
MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1943 No. 15

FREEDOM FOR ALL



President ROOSEVELT

Indelibly written on the map of destiny are facts and figures which foreshadow the doom of the evil men who brought the horrors of war upon humanity in pursuance of their design to enslave it These facts and figures attest the growing power of the United Nations and the employment of that power for the achievement of our common aims—freedom for all peoples, economic security for them and the realization of the age-long dream of furled battleflags in a federation of the world. As we march with stout hearts towards the goal we have fixed, we manifest our good faith by giving to those we liberate the rights and privileges democracy enjoys and by pledging to them the peace of a good neighbour and denial of aggression through a system in which all sovereign nations, great and small, will have equal rights. We are on the way to the achievement of our aims because of the unity which exists within the United Nations and which increasingly has marked their military and political collaboration

President ROOSEVELT in a statement to the *ARMY AND NAVAL JOURNAL* Special Issue, on Tuesday, December 7, 1943

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WELCOME NEWS TO ALL

The concerted plans reached at Cairo and Teheran will undoubtedly result in making effective to the fullest extent the fighting strength of all the United Nations. At both these conferences, military plans were concerted. It should be welcome news to all United Nations that in the European theatre complete agreement has been reached as to the scope and timing of operations to be undertaken from the east, west and south.

—MR. CORDELL HULL, *United States Secretary of State, in a statement on the Cairo and Teheran Conferences made on Monday, the 6th December 1943.*

◆

WAR AGAINST JAPAN

To take the war against Japan as a side-show to be disposed of easily after the war has been won over Hitler is not only idle but dangerous talk. It would suit Japan's strategy to hold her from further conquests for an unfixed period. Allied forces with their limited resources had taken every Japanese military position they had attacked. Given a heightened scale of striking power the same forces can break into Japan's conquered Empire before it can be fully exploited and then strike at the inner Empire and then at Japan herself.

—MR. JOHN CURTIN, *Prime Minister of Australia, in a review of war against Japan on Monday, the 6th December 1943.*

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HITLER TO GALLOWS—TOJO TO HARAKIRI

Some day soon we will celebrate "Unconditional Surrender Day." But our task will be less than half done when the last enemy finally capitulates. We shall drive Hitler to the gallows and Tojo to harakiri, but the recurring blood-lust which afflicts nations will only be cured when it is caught in its incipient stages. The need bespeaks mutual effort by nations historically dedicated to principles proclaimed in the Magna Carta or Declaration of Independence.

—COLONEL FRANK KNOX, *the United States Navy Secretary, addressing a meeting on Tuesday, the 7th December 1943.*

Registered No. M-4345

Madras War Review

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TOWARDS FINAL VICTORY

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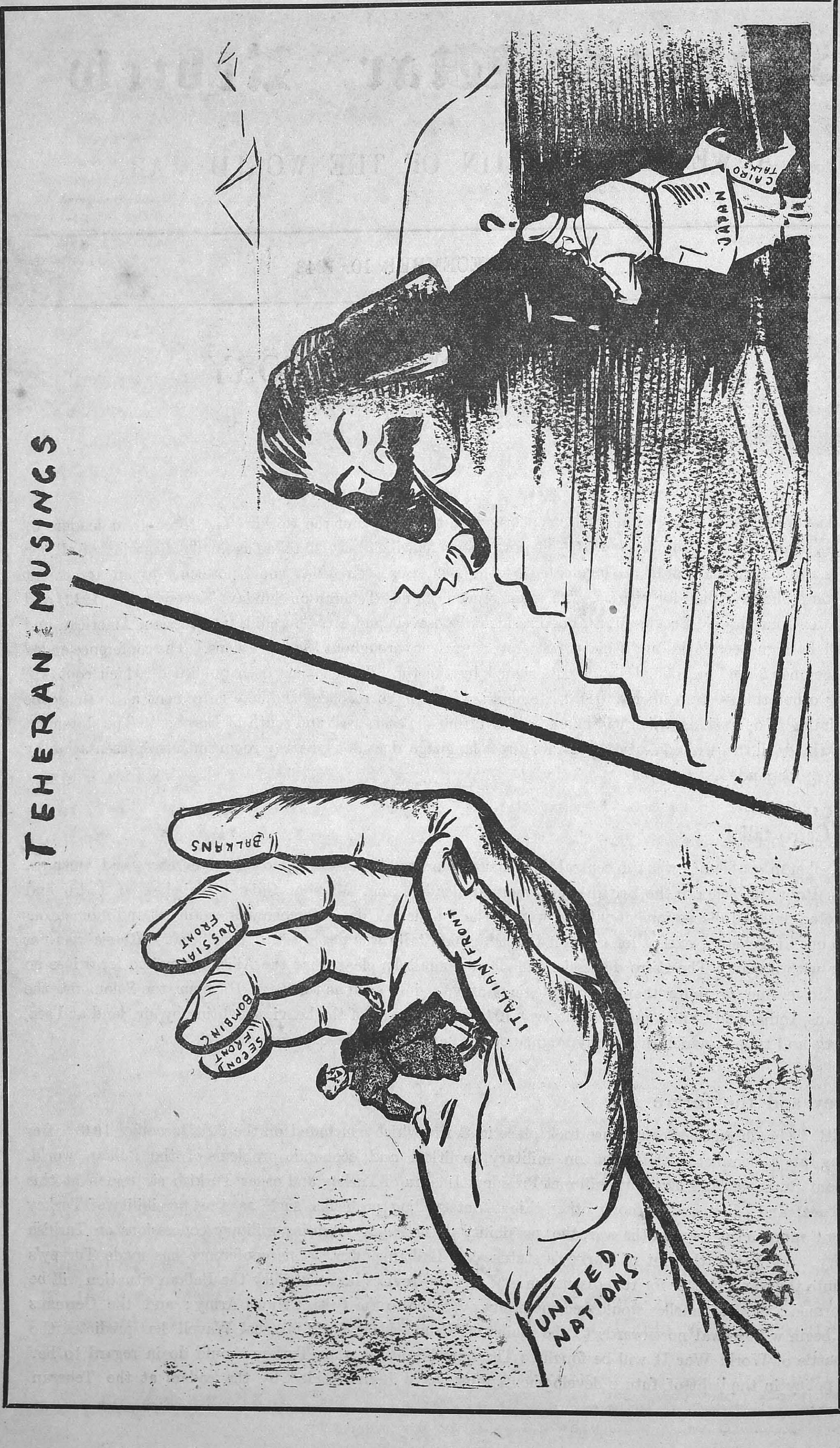
THE last week was a period of momentous decisions in the history of the world. The three great leaders of Britain, America and Russia met at Teheran, an event which may be taken as finally disposing of all the doubts and suspicions sought to be created by the Nazis that the Allies would not come to an agreement on a comprehensive plan for victory. The conference began at Teheran on Sunday, November 28, 1943, and lasted for four days. Besides M. Stalin, President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill, the Russian, American and British Foreign Secretaries and Chiefs of Staff were present throughout the discussions. The conference ended on December 2, and an official statement, signed by the three leaders, has been published, which contains, among other things, the unequivocal statement: "We have reached complete agreement as to the scope and timing of operations which will be undertaken from the east, west and south of Europe." The statement has satisfied all the United Nations, and its direct language does not give any room for misrepresentation by enemy propaganda.

The Cairo talks

THE Teheran conference was the central theme, supplemented by a series of other conferences and consultations. Prior to Teheran the British and American leaders met Marshal Chiang Kai-shek at Cairo and conducted detailed discussions about the war in the Pacific. This conference was as august and momentous as the one at Teheran, except for the fact that Marshal Stalin was not present there because Russia was not at war with Japan. The Cairo discussions made it definitely clear that the Allies are poised for drives on Japan from one or more than one strategic vantage points such as the Pearl Harbour, the Solomons, the Aleutians, India and China, and that the year 1944 will see some of the heaviest fighting by air, land and sea, the scale and type of which the enemy might not yet have effectively experienced.

Turkey and the future

AFTER Teheran another conference took place in Cairo, which concluded on the 6th December 1943 after arriving at a complete settlement on military, political and economic problems of the Balkan world. President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill met President Ineunu of Turkey and other Turkish statesmen at this conference and discussed, among other things, outstanding problems such as the possibility of Turkey playing a more active part in the war, the possibility of the Allies obtaining military concessions on Turkish territory, and the settlement of Turkey's status as a Balkan power. This conference has made Turkey's entry into the war a matter for real discussion. If Turkey revises her neutrality the Balkan situation will be transformed; the Dardanelles would become easily available to the British Ninth Army; and the Germans would begin withdrawal northwards to the plains of Vienna where Field Marshal Wavell has predicted the final battle of World War II will be fought. The question as to what Turkey should do in regard to her whole policy in the light of future developments must have been decided by the caders at the Teheran Conference.



HITLER } LOQ. "THE IMPRESSION I GOT FROM THE TALKS WAS . . ."
TOJO }

—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

NEW GUINEA.—Markham Valley advance. Australian troops cross the ten knot Umi river in rubber boats attached to flying foxes.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Allied Air Offensive

Recent reports from various theatres of war show an increased momentum in the Allied air offensive against the Axis powers. This is especially so in Europe and particularly against Germany. These events naturally lead one to examine the utility of the aircraft in modern warfare. On this point of the role of air force in the war, opinion is divided. Some give it the most important place and regard it as the most effective weapon for carrying out offensive and defensive war against the enemy. Other fighting services are assigned only secondary place. First months of this global war lend support to the view that aircraft forms the dominant role. Germany won every major battle—Poland, Norway, France, Crete—in the beginning of this war by control of the air. In his book "Victory through Air Power" Major ALEXANDER SEVERSKY says: "The most significant fact about the war now in progress is the emergence of aviation as a paramount and decisive factor in war making." But SEVERSKY's view is disputed even in Germany which achieved great initial successes by unscrupulous resort to air bombing and attacks on unprotected countries. There are many who, while giving due importance to Air Power, are of the opinion that it can by no means be decisive.

General LUDENDORF in his book "Total War" wrote: "No general should surrender to the idea that a war could be decided by air bombardment, however strong . . . isolated operations may well indirectly influence the course of the campaign, but they cannot decide it." Marshal KESSELRING also regards air offensive as complementary to land and sea attacks.

* * * * *

Effectiveness of Air Attacks

Some among the Allies consider that air warfare alone is capable of bringing the Nazis to their knees, but Mr. CHURCHILL's crypt saying that it is 'an experiment worth trying' reflects the general opinion held by the leading Allied statesmen and military chiefs. Air Marshal Sir ARTHUR HARRIS, Chief of Britain's Bomber Command, said once, "If I could send 20,000 bombers to Germany to-night, Germany could not be in the war to-morrow." This attitude of Sir HARRIS reveals his great confidence in the effectiveness of air attacks. Air Chief Marshal Sir FREDRICK BOWHILL, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force, Atlantic Ferry Command, does not share the optimism of Sir ARTHUR HARRIS. Sir FREDRICK said on December 17, 1942, "Bombing alone will not win the war, but will weaken enemy morale and aid final victory." Clarifying the aim of the air offensive last month Air Marshal Sir HARRIS said: "We propose entirely to emasculate every centre of enemy production . . . It is our intention to break the enemy's means and will to war." This modified view of Sir HARRIS is in consonance with the definite aim of air offensive given in the communiqué issued after the Teheran Conference wherein it is stated: "No power on earth can prevent our destroying the German armies by land, their U-boats by sea, and *their war plants from the air.*" Sir ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR echoes the same feeling when he says, "We shall continue to hammer the enemy from the skies till we have paralysed their war industries, disrupted their transport systems and broken their will to war." Those words rightly sum up the Allied object in air attacks.

* * * * *

Nazi War Machine being Paralysed: Virtual Second Front

The pounding of the Ruhr, the most important industrial centre, and strafing of production points as Hamburg, Leipzig, Berlin, etc., show that the Allies have more than succeeded in their objective of paralysing the Nazi war machine and ammunition output. Royal Air Force and United States bombers have almost paid daily visits to HITLER's "European Fortress" and released block-busters and bombs of great weight as 4,000 and 8,000 lb. bombs were dropped on military targets. This concentrated and effective attack on German industrial centres has produced a devastating effect on German war effort. The destruction caused is so great that the present air offensive can virtually be called a 'second front.' The purpose of the second front is to compel HITLER to divert to the west a large portion of his forces from the Russian front in order to relieve the great pressure on the Red Army. The air offensive has indirectly achieved this main object. The German concentration in the Eastern front has been rendered impossible. Allied raids on Germany forced the Fuehrer to withdraw a substantial part of his fighter strength from the Russian front to combat Allied bombers over Germany. The result is that German forces are unable to withstand the powerful Soviet attacks. Large numbers of industrial plants have been smashed. The consequence is decrease in production of war material which hampered German troops in Russia getting vital equipments and replacements. This disruption blocked supplies reaching in sufficient quantities Nazi armies in Russia. These drawbacks disabled German forces to a great extent and the

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS.

Sir Archibald Rowlands, Adviser to the Viceroy on War Administration, who has just taken charge, was in India before. He was Adviser on Military Finance to the Government of India from 1937 to 1939. He now comes to India from the British Ministry of Aircraft Production of which he was Permanent Secretary.

Born on December 26, 1892, Sir Archibald was educated at the University College of Wales and Jesus College, Oxford. He served in Mesopotamia in the last war. He served as Private Secretary to successive Secretaries of State for War (Viscount Hailsham, Viscount Halifax, Mr. Duff Cooper). He was created a Knight Commander of the Bath in 1941.

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problems created by the Allied air offensive are responsible for the inability of the *Wehrmacht* to resist the strong surge of Russian advance. The 'second front' is intended to weaken the military might of Germany. That this has been done to some considerable extent is clear from the following statement of Marshal STALIN made on November 6 :—

> "The Allies are subjecting and are still subjecting important industrial centres of Germany to large scale air bombing, *thus substantially weakening the military might of the enemy.*"

The Allied air offensive against Germany has been on a progressive scale. In September 1943, 37,100 tons of bombs were dropped on enemy objectives from bases in Britain and Mediterranean. It means that 1,237 tons of bombs were every day dropped in September 1943. On the other hand the heaviest weight ever dropped by the *Luftwaffe* (London, April 16, 1940) was only 436 tons. This is as nothing as compared to the Allied colossal bombardment. The weight of the bombing offensive has steadily grown from one ton a day in 1939–40 to 500 tons a day in September 1943. This is by Britain-based Royal Air Force bombers alone. In October 1943, United States bombers from the United Kingdom dropped nearly 5,000 tons while Royal Air Force dropped 13,000 tons in nine major raids on Germany.

* * * * *

Intensive All-out Bombing

Intensive all-out bombing campaign started on March 28, 1942, by a major attack on Lubeck. Now aircraft in great force are engaged in mass raid bombing and the effect produced is indeed tremendous. After Lubeck, Cologne, Hamburg, Berlin, etc., received heavy pounding. In two raids on the capital of Germany, recently (November 23 and 24) the city has been plastered with nearly 5,000 tons of bombs. These combined day-and-night raids by American and British bombers on Nazi industrial targets have severely damaged HITLER's war industries. The German war production has been crippled. German lines of communication and transport facilities have been much disrupted. Carrying supplies, equipment, etc., to the various fronts has become a great problem.

It is worth mentioning here that the Allied attacks are not directed against civilians. All targets were only of industrial or military importance. Contrast this with HITLER's threat in September 1940 when he cried "We shall rub out their cities." The Allied air attacks were never used to create terror among the people. Our aim is to break German spirit for fighting, to deprive the Nazis of their weapons.

* * * * *

Goebbels' Somersault

The effectiveness of Allied bombing has made even GOEBBELS execute a somersault in his propaganda methods. During the early years the effect of bombing raids was minimized by Germans. Nazi officials denied damages and casualties and said that military objectives were not attacked. Recently the Germans have changed their tactics. GOEBBELS indulges in maximising the horrors of Allied bombing in order to rouse sympathy for the wounded and hatred against the enemy. The German propaganda machine has failed in its aim. There is abundant evidence to show that growing Allied air superiority is producing a depressing effect on German morale. Hopes of victory steadily vanish from the minds of German people. The belief in the infallibility and invincibility of their leader has been shaken to its foundations. Thus the Allied air offensive is already bearing fruit; with growing intensification it will contribute substantially to Allied victory.

GREEK RELIEF APPEAL—CHAIRMAN'S THANKS FOR MADRAS'S CONTRIBUTION

I

Copy of letter from the Assistant Private Secretary to the Governor of Madras, to the Chairman, King of the Hellenes Greek Relief Appeal, dated 19th November 1943 :—

"I am directed to let you know that at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Provincial War Committee held on 15th November 1943 and presided over by His Excellency, it was decided to donate a sum of Rs. 1 lakh to the Greek Relief Fund from the Madras Governor's War Fund.

His Excellency hopes that there will be a ready and generous response to your Committee's appeal for funds to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Greece."

II

Copy of letter, dated 22nd November 1943, from the Chairman of the King of the Hellenes Greek Relief Appeal, to the Assistant Private Secretary to the Governor of Madras :—

"I was very pleased to receive your letter of the 19th instant and request you to convey to the Executive of the Provincial War Committee my thanks for their generous contribution to the Greek Relief Fund.

His Excellency's kind interest for the success of the appeal has deeply touched me and I wish to express the sincerest gratitude of my Committee."

The LAST WEEK in SINGAPORE

By MRS. IDA KINLOCH

In this article Mrs. Ida Kinloch describes the dangerous days in the last week of the tenure of the Singapore Island. She gives an inkling into the cruel mass massacres indulged in by the Japanese who bombed mercilessly dwelling places of working classes in Singapore. An account of the hazardous journey to India of Mr. Kinloch is also added. Mrs. Kinloch ends the essay with ennobling optimism and contentment. She says "In India we have regained our health and here too we have made lasting friendships. Truly our material losses have been great. We had a home filled with treasures gathered from countries all over the world. Yet we regard ourselves as fortunate and thank God for all the benefits bestowed upon us. For how does one assess wealth? We are free! We have health and the love of family and friends. These are treasures of mankind common to all and they are the greatest possessions."

IN the last week of the tenure of the island of Singapore, conditions worsened rapidly. From the beginning of the month the position looked pretty grim, but from the time Singapore was severed from the mainland, the situation was desperate. Seen in this perspective, the world had a better picture than we who were actually in Singapore, for right up to the last hour, hope of relief didn't die; otherwise many hundreds of men, women and children would not have remained to be taken prisoner. Bombing in mass formation continued day and night but when the Japanese got near enough to shell the city, it was enough to break the stoutest nerves. A heavy black blanket of smoke hung over the city and the noise of explosions from our own demolitions, bursting bombs and screaming shells rent the air.

Our men continued to retreat all the way down the Peninsula and on Sunday, the 8th February, we learned that the last remnants of our Forces had crossed the Johore Causeway, which links the island of Singapore with the mainland of Malaya, after which the lock-gates on the causeway had been blown up. A week later the island surrendered.

Our house was a large one and we had given refuge to nine people who had been forced to leave their own homes in various parts of Malaya. The public had been forbidden to purchase any more than their actual needs, but after the causeway was cut, everyone was advised to buy as much tinned provisions, especially milk, sacks of flour, rice, sugar, etc., as they could afford. To this end, we laid in stocks of everything we could think of, to tide us over a siege of months; such as cases of soap, "First Aid" necessities, and tinned food to the value of over $500. In addition we were all inoculated against typhoid and we had half-a-dozen demijohns for fresh water. Our water-supply had previously come many miles by pipeline from Johore, and now we had to rely entirely upon reservoirs on the island itself. All our servants had fled with the exception of the old Chinese cook and his family and our equally old Malay chauffeur and his family.

MASS MASSACRE

It was almost midnight when we went to bed on the night of 10th February 1942. We were all dead tired, and notwithstanding the incessant din, it wasn't long before we were all fast asleep. About 1-30 a.m. the telephone rang in the study. A friend in the Naval Reserve was leaving at daybreak for Java. He knew my husband was anxious to get me away and offered to take me. I was fast asleep, but my husband wakened me and told me the news. I was reluctant to go unless two women refugees who were staying with us, could go also. I had promised not to leave them, so they were wakened and we each packed a small case. At 4-30 a.m. we all crowded into our car and set off for the place of assignation. We went by way of Geylang and passed through streets, the houses of which had been levelled to the ground or damaged beyond habitation. This was a thickly populated part of the city, for the most part was inhabited by working-class Chinese. They had been massacred by the hundreds and huge communal graves had been dug, often among the ruins. On account of the curfew we were challenged frequently. My husband was driving, and with a bayonet at his throat, the sentry waited until his pass was produced to show that we had authority to be out.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Arriving at the slipway, our friend conferred with his two European officer friends; but they decided it was too much responsibility to take charge of three women, so we wished them good luck and returned home having seen one of our huge flying boats take to the air and wing its way towards Java. In the nearby aerodrome of Kallang, mechanics were wheeling out the few fighter planes we had left. The aerodrome itself was in such a mess that the main road which ran alongside, was being used as a runway. In the light of early dawn it all seemed so unreal.

Back at the house, we all sat down to a hearty breakfast, which was to be our last meal together. The men left for their respective jobs while the women settled down to the routine of housework and washing clothes. Shells were falling over the district and bombers came over in waves to add to the confusion. Crockery and glassware jumped about the shelves, pictures fell off the walls, vases toppled, parts of the ceiling fell, the old house fairly rocked.

Except for isolated cases, telephones continued to function. About midday I had a call from an old friend to say if I came to his office immediately, along with my two women friends, he thought he might be able to get us away. I was in a quandary. I knew my husband had gone to Fort Canning, but it was impossible to get in touch with him, and I couldn't go without bidding him goodbye. I had just put the receiver down when the bell rang again. It was my husband. I told him the news and we arranged to meet at our friend's office. When I left the house there were a couple of Australian soldiers having a meal in the breakfast room. Three others were bathing, while two more were waiting their turn in the dressing-room. Two were in each of the bathrooms downstairs and others were asking for food and iced water round the kitchen door.

CLUNG LIKE FLIES FOR SAFETY

Down in the city, the overhead tramwires lay in festoons about the streets. Standards and street lamps had been blown clean out of the ground, while burnt-out cars were everywhere. We three women arrived each carrying a small case, blanket and pillow. The launch was waiting alongside the jetty ready to take us to the cargo ship as arranged by our friend, but we were asked to wait a few minutes as another man had requested help to enable him to get his wife, their three children and grandmother away. The streets were crowded with people when a formation of 27 Japanese bombers appeared. They were diving straight for the jetty. We clambered below the concrete jetty and clung like flies to a barnacle covered concrete support, whose sloping ledge afforded precarious safety from the shark-infested waters of the harbour. It was high tide and the water beneath us about 10 feet deep. A middle-aged soldier clung to the same pillar as my husband and myself. He was shaking as if in the throes of ague, and crying like a child. He told us afterwards that he had fought his

way all down the Peninsula from Kota Bahru. The bombs fell all about us and wrecked many small craft in the harbour. When they had passed we scrambled into the launch once more and waited for our other passengers, but in less than a quarter of an hour, the bombers came over again, and we had to crawl beneath the jetty once more for safety.

BID GOOD-BYE WITH A BREAKING HEART

By the time we were all assembled, news had gone around that a launch was leaving, and we found ourselves with no less than 52 uninvited soldiers who were endeavouring to escape. We set off for our ship and were about 200 yards from shore when a formation of 27 dive bombing bombers came over again. They were dive bombing shipping in the harbour and we were in the direct line of their attack. We had no protection but the canvas roof. The effect of their bombs was just like a giant walking through the sea. Huge columns of water and wrecked shipping rose into the air as each stick of bombs dropped, and we felt gusts of hot air sweep over us as the bombs struck the water. It seemed as though our last hour had come, when columns of water rose in front of us and we realized that they had passed right over and we were safe. By this time the women were almost prostrate with nervous exhaustion, and when we arrived at our appointed ship, we were forbidden to pull alongside on account of the soldiers we had on board. As it happened this was fortunate for us as that ship was sunk on the way to Java. We tried three more ships before we found a captain who was willing to allow us on board. Through a mist of tears and with a breaking heart I kissed my husband good-bye. He boarded the launch again and returned to the shore in time for the next lot of bombers.

HARASSING THROUGH-OUT

The ship was discharging a cargo of rice and we lay where we were till evening. Bombers were continually overhead and a little Red Cross launch bustled to and fro picking up survivors and wounded. The islands of Pulo Bukum, Sambo and Saborah, upon which were oil installations, were sheets of flames. I was told afterwards that more than thirty-six million pounds worth of oil were destroyed. The island of Singapore itself seemed ablaze and as darkness fell, we saw the ghastly white flashes of our guns on Blakan Mati or Pulo Brani. As we slipped away, fears of aerial attack diminished and through sheer exhaustion, we fell asleep. Next morning, however, the bombers again paid us attention. Our little craft had no armament whatsoever, and our only refugue was the tiny dining room immediately underneath the bridge. The Japanese broadcast that they had sunk four out of every six ships which left Singapore. We passed two which were on fire and sinking, and I implored the Navigating Officer to ask the Captain if we could not go over and pick up survivors —we could see a small boat tossing about—but he said we had to keep on our course. If we dared to approach them it would be courting disaster. Ships near us were badly damaged and many were killed and wounded but we made for Batavia unscathed. Two large vessels lay at the wharf side and received refugees from the smaller craft as they arrived from Singapore. While lying there we were twice visited by bombers, but they were driven off before any damage could be inflicted upon us. In company with others I had a straw mattress down in the hold. The food ration was very sparse and we had a daily issue of one pint of water per head for all purposes. Although threatened with submarines and bombers we made for Colombo safely.

HUSBAND'S HARD DAYS

By the time my husband arrived back on shore, it was well passed lunch-time, but he had no desire for food, so he went to a restaurant where he knew he could get a good cold beer. They, like all shops, hotels and stores were busy smashing all their stocks of wines and spirits. One wholesale store had so many cases of brandy that it was considered it would take too long to smash them all, so the whole building was set alight.

Feeling fortified by the beer, he went to the Shipping Office in a vain endeavour to try to find out where my ship was bound for.

During all this time raids and shelling were continuous. Business was at a standstill and the centre of the city was filled with people who had come to the large, concrete buildings on the water-front seeking refuge. The Japanese were already in the suburbs.

That night a battery of our guns opened fire just on the outside of our garden boundary. It seemed every moment as though the house would collapse. My husband knew it would draw the enemy's fire and the only thing to do was to leave the house when the curfew was lifted in the morning. After breakfast, each man who was living in the house, went about his job, mostly fire-fighting and rescue work. Along with his friends, my husband found a place to sleep in one of the concrete buildings on the waterfront. Each man took a mattress and pillows (for they were office buildings, with no domestic conveniences whatever). Later he returned to the house, and in three trips collected all the tinned food and demijohns of water. The last time he had difficulty in negotiating the car down the drive to the house, where there were three shell-holes and an entanglement of telephone wires. Cook was in the

CAUTIONARY COUNSELS—IV

(By *R.G.*)

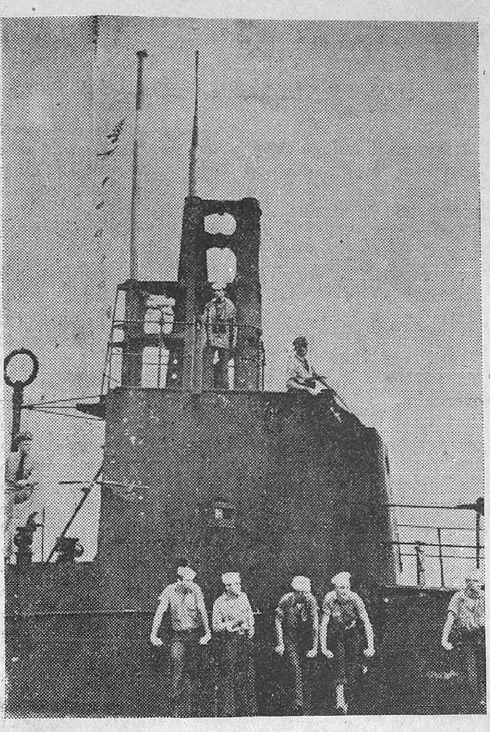
Muthiah, who Grew No Food And Grew Gradually Thinner.

Muthiah had a dozen fields
Of different soils and different yields
And could, if he had had a mind
To keep his family well-dined,
Have grown both rice enough and dhall
To fill the platters for them all;
And could, so many acres had he,
Have added cholam to the paddy
And still grown onions, turmeric,
And beans enough to make him sick.

But sleek Muthiah could, or would,
Not take the pains to grow more food.
He would not clear the channels shallow
Nor break the acres lying fallow;
And while he dawdled, dozed and dithered
His cholam failed, his paddy withered,
And jackals ate his sugar-cane.
Only his cotton throve—in vain:
For though the price was very good
The money would not buy him food
Unless he paid a fearful price
For half a beggar's bowl of rice.
So measuring out with smaller measure
His last grain sack, that precious treasure,
His cotton bales, his former pride,
With anger and despair he eyed:
And late, too late, with rue reflected
On channels silted and neglected.
He saw the harvest coming in
But missed his dinner and grew thin.
He saw his neighbours having dinner,
But he had nothing and grew thinner.

Moral.

By growing little food or none
You grow at last a skeleton.



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE RETURNS FROM VICTORIOUS CRUISE AGAINST JAPANESE.—Flying a broom at the masthead to denote a "clean sweep," a United States submarine returns to her Pacific base, her crew coming on deck for fresh air and a smoke. The submarine has sunk two Japanese combat ships and six auxiliaries including a transport. The "clean sweep" was chalked up when she got every vessel of a four-ship convoy plus the escorting destroyer.

air-raid shelter with his daughter, and he was shouting to his wife and little son to come to him—a terriffic barrage was in progress. His wife, who was ill, was in bed, while their little 5 years old son was crouching underneath the kitchen table quite petrified. There was no sign of the chauffeur's large family of ten. Cook was told to pack as much of his personal belongings as he could get into the car, and then the family bundled into the car and were taken to a concrete building on the waterfront. Our chauffeur then parked the Chrysler in a car park in town. He refused to remain and told my husband he had arranged to meet his eldest son at our house, where they would remain on guard.

FEBRUARY 13TH

In the afternoon of the following day, Friday, the 13th, my husband was returning to his temporary abode when he was met by an Official from Penang, where he had a branch office. He was told there was a small ship just about to leave, and although he had no pass authorizing him to go, this man would see him on board provided he returned within 10 minutes. My husband dashed into the building and collected a small handbag containing a few shirts and tinned food, and invited any of the others to join him. With the exception of one, they all considered it too risky and decided to remain. The two men hurried to the Dock Gates, but the friend from Penang was nowhere to be seen, and the soldiers on guard held them up as they had no passes. One of them, a particular friend of the old days, was armed with a Tommy gun. Just then a formation of bombers appeared, diving for the little craft which they were to board. My husband dashed for the nearest building as quickly as his lame leg would allow him and threw himself beneath the staircase which faced the entrance. When the planes had passed, he again presented himself at the gates where his companion turned up also. He had gone in another direction, and they congratulated each other that they were still whole. The bombers aim had been accurate and many were killed. If the two men had been allowed to pass through the gates at first, they would have been among the casualties. A man with whom my husband had been speaking to a moment before, was among the killed.

On the evening of Friday, 13th February, under cover of the falling night, this certain small ship—the S.S. "Kuala"—with about 600 people aboard packed like sardines, in company with a gun-boat having approximately the same number of passengers, sailed from Singapore. Both carried the white ensign. Next day, shortly after daybreak, they steamed slowly to an anchorage about ¼ mile from a small uninhabited island named Pompong. The gunboat lay about 300 yards away. Almost immediately the two ships were visited by a European in a launch who resided on one of the other islands. He informed them that two ships had been attacked here the day before, and one—the KUNG WO—was lying derelict about 1½ miles away, where a naval party were working on her with a view to salvage.

SHIP SUNK; STRUGGLERS FOR LIFE BOMBED

The short journey from Singapore island to Sumatra was extremely dangerous, and as the sea here is dotted with countless small islands, it was thought possible to camouflage the ship as another small island. To this end an order was given for a party to go ashore and collect foliage. Four lifeboats, which were all the ship boasted, were used for the purpose. Work proceeded rapidly but it was a full day's work with the limited ferry service available. Meanwhile other parties were organized on board the KUALA to clear up the ship and distribute food. Japanese bombers appeared about 10-30 a.m. They attacked the KUNG WO and scored direct hits. It is not known how many the repair crew numbered as there were no survivors. The ship sank in about three minutes and a quarter of an hour later, more bombers were heard and orders were given to take shelter. An attack was made on the KUALA and a direct hit near the bridge caused much damage and killed many women and children who were taking shelter underneath, which was the ship's dining room. Fire broke out on the starboard side near the galley and superstructure of the boat deck blocked the main deck. Efforts were made to get the women and children into the ship's lifeboats. One was alongside the gangway immediately after the attack and others, which had been gathering foliage, came from the shore. The bombers renewed their attack while rescue work was going on. There was approximately one lifebelt to every 10 persons, so anything that could float was thrown into the sea, but owing to the exceptionally strong current, it was practically useless. By this time the KUALA was sinking and well ablaze. The sea between the burning ship and the precipitous shore was peppered with people who

A REPLY TO CERTAIN OBJECTORS

(By *R.G.*)

It's not our war, you say; and do not lie.
This is a war of men who understand
What honour means and freedom, men who die
Or work and fight to keep their native land
Unspotted by the tyrant. But to you
What can it mean, who never knew before,
And have not learnt now, what is good and true?
Skulk in your holes: of course it's not your war.

CHINESE MINISTRY OF WAR MISSION IN DELHI. —The Mission came to India to study the supply organization of the Army in India. The Chinese General was particularly interested in the soldiers' kit.

were swimming in the oil covered sea, endeavouring to locate a spot on shore where they could land. Another formation of nine bombers flew over and dropped their load of bombs amongst these people and on the island itself, killing a great number and injuring others. Many survivors were swept away by the strong currents and drowned, but some were fortunate in reaching other islands.

The order was now given to abandon ship, and my husband helped to put lifebelts on passengers still aboard. A male passenger whom he did not recognize, took off his belt and they fitted it on an old lady. My husband then helped her over the side and down a " Jacob's ladder " to a lifeboat alongside. Bombers again attacked and he took care of a little boy about 4 years old who clung desperately to a rope on deck screaming with terror. He would not let go the rope and his little fingers had to be forced apart, and after adjusting his belt, my husband threw him into the sea. He did not see the child or the old lady again.

Standing nearby on deck was a Chinese friend who was very well known throughout Malaya. He had only just returned from India on a mission of investigation of conditions on behalf of our Government. He was holding a lifebelt in his hand and appeared to be quite dazed. Through the din my husband shouted to him to " jump for it " as he himself clambered over the side. *Tay Lian Teck* is among the missing and my husband was probably the last person to speak to him. My husband swam to a lifeboat filled with survivors and along with many others, clung to one of its ropes.

" COLLECTED A PACKET "

In their next attack, the planes concentrated on survivors swimming ashore. He saw them coming and heard the ripping noise of machine guns. Instinctively he let go the rope and dived under water. Almost immediately he felt himself being churned round and round. The water seemed to be boiling all around him. When he got to the surface, everything was black as night and, to use his own expression, he thought he'd " collected a packet." Gradually his vision cleared and he saw the outline of the lifeboat again. He found a rope and clung to it. When he regained his senses, he saw an old Malay man immediately above him sitting in the boat and looking down at him. He was the only one sitting in that lifeboat which a few moments before had been filled. The others had apparently either dived overboard or were lying in the bottom of the boat, killed or wounded and whereas there had been others clinging to the ropes, my husband was now quite alone. Then he noticed his hands and arms were covered with blood and he asked the old Malay if his face was bleeding. He replied " no " and then my husband saw that it was the old Malay who was wounded and pouring blood over him. Obviously the old man had been badly hurt because he was not aware that he'd been hit. My husband did not remember seeing him again, neither had he any idea what happened to the lifeboat. He saw that the current was swiftly taking them away from the island, so he let go the rope and made for the shore. He only just managed to reach the extreme end of the island. If he had been carried away another 20 yards he could never have made shore. His lame leg was a dead weight and he could only swim on his back, propelling himself with his arms. At first his fingers gripped the steep rocks but a wave tore him away again into the sea. With the next wave he made a desperate effort and once again clutched the slippery rock. This time he gathered all his remaining strength and pulled himself up higher away from the next incoming wave. How long he lay there he did not know, but with returning senses, he heard cries for help from others who were striving to reach land—and all he could do was to lie where he was, exhausted.

LIFE IN " SANDY BEACH "

Altogether about 200 survivors reached what was named " Sandy Beach ", about 200 got to the Main Camp on the other side of the island, and about 100 more reached safely at various points on the shores of the elongated island of Pompong; roughly a total of 500—less than a third of the original number.

The place which was named " Sandy Beach " on Pompong island, is a fairly flat piece of ground covered with sand, roughly 40 yards across by 40 yards deep, around which the jungle-covered land rises steeply to a height of approximately 500 feet. About half this area of the flat ground is also covered with jungle growth and this afforded shelter from the sun and detection by Japanese reconnaissance planes. The badly injured and stretcher cases were moved into the protection of this jungle and an area was set aside for an improvised hospital. One can well imagine the extremely restricted movement with so many persons in such a small space, most of whom were in need of medical attention. In consequence, sanitary conditions on the island became appalling. Washing was impossible as there was no fresh water available and the sea was covered with oil. The scant clothing which the survivors wore could not be hung out to dry for fear of disclosing position to the Japanese. At night it was dreadfully cold. They lay close together, side by side, and tried to make little hollows in the sand for their bodies. Fortunately all medical stores were taken off the gunboat before she sank, and also two kegs of fresh water.

Two amputations were performed on Saturday afternoon by women doctors. The patients were both Nursing Sisters. One was a leg below the knee

and the other a leg above the knee, without the aid of proper surgical instruments and anaesthetics. The courage and fortitude of these two Sisters and the doctors who performed the operations, was amazing. Another Sister told my husband that on reaching the shore she encountered two soldiers who had been wounded after reaching the island. One of the men had been badly wounded and his leg was shattered. Although in great pain, he was conscious and they asked her aid. She formed a tourniquet with the man's turban to prevent him bleeding to death, and because she had nothing with which to cut the flesh, she twisted the leg until it was completely severed. Strong currents washed corpses on to the beach, and in the mornings there was the greatest difficulty in dispersing them. There was no room for burial, neither were there any implements with which to dig graves. The sickly, sweet smell of gangerine will never be forgotten.

The bombing experience of my husband while swimming ashore had not left him unscathed. Other survivors told him his face was disfigured and he had two lovely black eyes. For weeks after he spoke as if suffering with adenoids and his eyesight has been permanently impaired by the concussion.

TERRIBLE THIRST

No water was distributed on the first night (Saturday) except to the severely wounded and they were allowed about an eggcupful each. In their desperate struggle to reach land, many of the survivors had swallowed a quantity of sea water which made them terribly thirsty. No food was issued at all on Saturday. About 7 p.m. on the Saturday evening, in the pitch darkness, a launch appeared. Here let us pay tribute to this British hero, Commander of the launch, whose name as well as so many others, has not been mentioned anywhere. It is mainly due to his resourcefulness and tenacity that the entire evacuation of Pompong was effected. He is a splendid example of our British Navy of whom we are so justly proud. He is a bearded young fellow of about 28 years, and had previously seen service in one of our capital ships which was sunk by Japanese aerial torpedoes off the coast of Malaya. It is understood he had accompanied the "Kung Wo" on the previous day and had escaped that bombing. In a small launch, he and a few men had made for shelter among the small islands, and had lain hidden. They had witnessed the bombing of the "Kuala" and the gunboat. In the evening of Saturday, under cover of the darkness, they came out to investigate. The situation was briefly stated to him and he agreed to take off six of the worst injured as that was the maximum his small craft could carry, and hopes of rescue rose when he promised to enlist the aid of any ships he could find.

The two amputation cases and four other badly injured cases were carried out to the launch by volunteers. It was high tide and the night pitch black. The surface of the beach under water was covered with coral, rock and infested with stinging fish. To further complicate matters, the ground dropped fairly steeply and was full of pot-holes. Only a very few men possessed shoes as these had been discarded when swimming ashore in the first place. The launch could not come too near shore on account of the heavy breakers, therefore the volunteers had to wade out to the launch holding the casualties as high as possible above their heads. That night one man died who had been too ill to move.

On reaching Sumatra our rescuer met Captain Shaw of the s.s. *Tanjong Pinang* to whom he recounted the situation on Pompong island. Although it was contrary to Captain Shaw's orders, he was prevailed upon to sail that night (Monday) to Pompong and rescue the other casualties. Shaw was reluctant to do so, but after seeing the plight of the six people who had been rescued, and on hearing of the Japanese brutal attacks, he decided to comply with the appeal. He sailed to Pompong and succeeded in rescuing about 200 of the injured survivors, mainly women and children. Unfortunately the "Tanjong Pinang" was captured by the Japanese before reaching the safety zone and the entire survivors aboard were taken prisoner.

Some food had been salved before the ships went down, but only enough to allow very small rations. Water could not be found; so for 24 hours there was nothing to drink. The situation seemed hopeless. No wireless message had been sent out as the apparatus had been destroyed before the ships sank. The only hope of survival was in the launch and her gallant commander.

On Sunday an intensive search was made on Pompong island for water, and a very small spring was found almost opposite the place where the ships had been sunk. This was sufficient to allow two rations of water per day, each about the size of a small coffee cup. My husband had a small round cigarette tin in which he received his ration, and he told me that one morning he drank his allowance in one gulp. It was agony waiting for the evening when the next ration was due, and after that he carried his little tin around with him, taking occasional sips to assuage his thirst.

EVACUATION TO "WELL SITE CAMP"

The spring was near the main camp on the other side of the island, afterwards known as "Well Site Camp", and rations of this water were carried over the jungle-covered hill to the survivors in Sandy Beach, in kegs which had been taken off one of the lifeboats. The carrying of water proved too strenuous for the volunteers, and it was decided that the whole personnel at Sandy Beach should move to the other side of the island and join the rest of the survivors there. This camp also had better facilities for re-embarkation. The evacuation of Sandy Beach took place on Monday. The strongest men were appealed to, to carry the sick and wounded over the steep hill to the other side. It was impossible to carry all casualties in this manner, and the worst injured were ferried round in a lifeboat. The majority had no shoes and were weak for the lack of food and the exertion expended in swimming ashore. It took my husband nearly all day to climb to the top of the 500 feet hill and down the other side to Well Camp Site. In addition to his lame leg, his other knee had been injured and he was still suffering from the effects of concussion.

On account of the lack of drinking water, they did not perspire as they should have done, and by the time they were landed in Sumatra, most of them were suffering from skin disease.

On Sunday my husband met the man who had escaped from Singapore with him. He recounted his ghastly experience when reaching shore. A young brunette about 25 appealed to him for help as he was swimming ashore. He went to her assistance and they were both making for land very slowly when the Japs came over f r the third time. His companion was swimming on her back and he continued to strike out. When the bombers had passed over, he turned to his companion with whom he had been talking, to enquire how she was. He received no response. With the movement of the waves her short wavy hair was washed over her face, and to his horror he saw the back of her head had been completely blown away.

YOUNG BABY WASHED ASHORE

Some time during the same afternoon a very young baby about three months' old was washed on to the beach cradled in a lifebelt. Surely it must

have been the youngest survivor of the "Kuala" outrage. There was no proper food for the child and it drove the others near to madness during the night with its cries. Some substitute food was found for it by the Nursing Sisters which satisfied its hunger and quietened it. No parents claimed the infant on Pompong.

One Chinese couple found each other on the second day, but there was no trace of any of their four children.

SWISS ROBINSON

As a youngster the Robinson Cruiso family had always fascinated my husband and he longed for their hermit-like experience, but the actuality of being shipwrecked on a desert island was a very different story to our Swiss Family Robinson. Pompong was a desert island in every sense of the word. There were no fruit or coconut trees, no birds, lizards or any other living thing. No doubt this was due to the lack of fresh water. The demeanour of the survivors was complete apathy. Old friends met again but there was no excited or effusive greeting, instead just a nod of recognition sufficed and perhaps an enquiry about somebody else. Conversation was sparse, each appearing to be absorbed by his or her own thoughts.

My husband found a piece of ship's canvas which had been washed ashore, and with the aid of a penknife he cut it into pieces, "sewed" them together with rattan and made shoes for himself and a few of his friends. They wore these until they arrived in Sumatra.

A few 12 oz. tins of corned beef had been salved and for distribution, the company was divided into groups of twelve. My husband, with his penknife, was chosen to carve for his little party. The tin was very carefully opened and it was a work of art cutting the contents into 12 equal portions, closely watched by 11 pairs of ravenous eyes. Hunger reduces man to the animal category and bad temper and ill-feeling were predominant. If anyone had been given more than another, it is no exaggeration to say that murder might have ensued. They were also allowed one small dry biscuit about 3 inches square, twice a day, but on the last day they were reduced to only one biscuit and the ration of water. By this time they were mostly too weak to walk and just lay about. Intense irritation and bad feeling grew apace. One wonders what the end would have been if they had not been rescued. It is certain they could not have lasted much longer. The rations of biscuits and corned beef were finished. My husband's own opinion is that although they were all physically weak, there would have been wholesale murder among them. They seldom spoke to each other. All were engrossed in their own thoughts.

THE SPIRIT OF CHINA

By this time the "Tanjong Pinang" had left with its cargo of wounded and a scattered few had left in native fishing boats. The rescue of the last of the survivors was effected by a small motor fishing boat and a couple of Chinese junks. About 120 got aboard the motor boat. As they neared the coast of Sumatra they were visited by a Jap reconnaisance plane. They all hid under the canvas expecting a bomb to be dropped on them any moment, and although the plane swooped very low, the pilot was evidently satisfied, for he flew off. Twelve hours sailing brought them to the coast of Sumatra at the mouth of the Indragerri river. Here they had their first meal and enough to drink. For the most part, their diet consisted of boiled rice and duck eggs until they boarded a ship on the other side of Sumatra. The motor boat took them up the river for about 100 miles where there was a road. At this small town they were sent to a rubber factory and there they all wallowed in baths in the latex tanks. They were also able to get a shave which was refreshing after nearly a fortnight. At this place an old Chinese gave my husband a shirt and a pair of shoes. Except for the canvas shoes he had made himself, he had gone barefoot since leaving the "Kuala." The Chinese was quite embarrassed when my husband offered to pay him—such is the spirit of China.

Crossing Sumatra to Padang the journey took the best part of a week and one of the places they slept in was the gaol of a mining town. One stage of the journey was accomplished by train. They travelled third class for a long distance for a few Guilder cents. At each station they purchased lashing of fruit for practically nothing and, as they had been without fresh fruit and vegetables for nearly three weeks, they did justice to all and every variety offered for sale. Also at each station tea was supplied free and nobody refused a single cup throughout the trip. They were like schoolboys on holiday and thoroughly enjoyed their freedom and the hospitality of the native population.

On reaching their destination which was Padang, no ships were available to take them away from Sumatra, and no small sailing vessel could be found to do the trip to Ceylon or India. They were all very dejected and were preparing to make for the hills before the Japs made up on them (they were then a matter of 3 days behind), when word was rushed round the billets that a ship would arrive to take them away that very evening—Sunday the 29th February. The ship turned out to be two British destroyers which conveyed them to cruisers, and they in turn carried them to Colombo.

Mr. KINLOCH BACK IN INDIA

Here my husband stayed in a Roman Catholic girls' school for a week. He was far from well and the kindness of the nuns was unbounded. He had no idea where I was, and it was some days before he discovered I was safe in Bombay. While he was in the convent, one of the priests told my husband he had had personal experience of Japanese culture. He had been imprisoned in Korea by them. He had been living in a certain house for some considerable time, when suddenly the Japanese decided that it overlooked some strategic point. For this he was considered a spy and he was thrown into prison and tortured.

In India we have regained our health and here too we have made lasting friendships. Truly our material losses in Malaya have been great. We had a home filled with treasures gathered from countries all over the world. My library of music and manuscripts which money could not buy, our silver plate, pictures and our treasured library of books—all gone; and what of my husband's flourishing business? Yet we regard ourselves as fortunate and thank God for all the benefits bestowed upon us. For how does one assess wealth? We are free. We have health and the love of family and friends. These are treasures common to all and they are the greatest possessions of mankind.

"Nothing depresses me so much as a young man, who when thinking of the career he shall take up, begins discussing the prospects of a pension. We want adventure in thought; in new ways of expressing our loyalty; in worship and in conduct."—*The Archbishop of Canterbury.*

JAPANESE STEAMER BURNT DOWN

Beaufighters on patrol over Pawngwa sighted a large river steamer with two barges alongside, moving upstream towards tree cover. The aircraft attacked, and cannon strikes were seen. They left the steamer well alight.

Picture shows the steamer drifting backwards downstream blazing from end to end, and throwing out dense clouds of black and grey smoke.

(Inset) *Picture shows the steamer some days later, stranded on a sand bank, burned out. It can clearly be seen that all her decking has gone.*

AWARDS TO I.A.M.C. OFFICERS

The following extract from the *Lancet*, dated 18th September 1943 will be read with interest :—

As announced in our issue of August 28, the M.C. has been awarded to Captain Narayana Subramaniam and Captain Christopher Arumainayagam.

Captain Subramaniam showed outstanding bravery and devotion to duty during the Djebel Garci Hills operations in April. He not only skilfully dressed under shell fire the wounds of those brought to the Regimental aid post but repeatedly moved out into the shell-swept zone to attend to the casualties of his own and other units which lay there. Captain Subramaniam took his M.B. from the Andhra Medical College, Vizagapatam, in 1941.

During the operations last April in the Enfidaville sector, although on more than one occasion knocked down by blast from bursting shells, Captain Arumainayagam continually moved about over a wide shell-swept area tending the wounded. "Knowledge of his presence" states the citation, "had a definite effect on the morale of the battalion." Captain Arumainayagam is a Madrassi from Vepery. He graduated from the Madras Medical College in 1939, and was Assistant Medical Officer at Renigunta Hospital, Chittoor District, before joining the Army in 1941.

MARTIAL SPIRIT OF SOUTH INDIA

A SHORT SKETCH OF MADRAS INFANTRY

1. When the British first came to India they started from Madras. The earliest Units were raised from Madras. In all the early fighting in India the whole brunt fell on the Madras Army.

2. The earlier dates of raising of Madras Infantry Units were:—

OLD NO.	LATE NO.	RAISED.
73rd	1/3rd Madras Regiment	1776
75th	2/3rd Madras Regiment	1776
79th	3/3rd Madras Regiment	1777
80th	Disbanded	1777
83rd	4/3rd Madras Regiment	1794
86th	10/3rd Madras Regiment	1794

These units carried the following battle honours:—

Sholinghur, Carnatic, Mysore, Seringapatam, Nagpore, Kemmendine, Ava, Pegu, Central India, Afghanistan 1879–80, Burma 1885–92.

The Great War—Aden, Mesopotamia, Kurdistan, Iraq, Persia, Malabar and Waziristan.

NOTE.—80th Carnatic Infantry carried an Honorary Colour captured from Hyder Ali at Sholinghur in 1781.

3. *Extracts from the opinions expressed by famous men.*—(i) In 1797 Lord Mornington, the Governor-General reported that "with regard to the Military establishment at Fort St. George I do not believe there exist in any part of the world an Army more distinguished for its high state of discipline or for the activity and gallantry of its officers."

(ii) There was no harder taskmaster than the Duke of Wellington. He demanded a very high standard of his troops, and was extremely sparing in praise. Note what he has to say of the Madras troops. The Duke of Wellington, then General Wellesley, after his great campaign in Southern India expressed the following view:—

"I cannot write in too strong terms of the conduct of the troops. Our troops behaved admirably and the sepoys astonished me."

(iii) Again at the end of 1804 he said "Troops which have been ordered to the southward have been tried in every mode in which it is possible to try troops and have uniformally manifested that patience under fatigues and severity of climate, that activity and perseverance in labour and bravery and discipline in action which are the characteristic qualities of the best soldier." It is to be remembered that at the hardest fought battles of these campaigns, such as Assaye, General Wellesley had only 1,300 European troops out of the total of 6,000, the remainder were Madras sepoys. Later in the middle of the 19th century General Sir Hugh Gough reported "Devotedness to the service and attachment to their officers have always marked the character of Madras sepoys. Their perseverance and gallantry before the enemy have secured for them the confidence of the British European Soldiers."

(iv) As regards the Mutiny in August 1859 the Secretary of State for India said "The Commander-in-Chief's minute contains only a slight sketch of the important services which have been rendered by the Madras Army during the great contest in the north of India. The great fact has been the perfect fidelity of that Army and perfect loyalty of the 23 million persons who inhabit this Presidency which enable the resources of the South of India to be freely put for the interest of our hard-pressed countrymen in the north."

IMMORTAL HONOUR

(v) Again Lieut.-General Sir Patrick Grant said "The services in the field of the troops of this Presidency employed in the suppression of the rebellion and mutiny are now a matter of history and the glowing terms in which they have been recognized must endure for ever an unperishable record of these noble soldiers. It never can be forgotten that to their immortal honour the Native Troops of the Madras Army have been, in the memorable words of Earl of Ellenborough, 'Faithful found among the faithless'."

(vi) Again Grant Duff says "Among the instances of the attachment and fidelity may be enumerated those of the Madras Sepoy prisoners who were worked like felons by Hyder Ali to induce them to enter their army and oppose the English. Their spirit and attachment on these occasions stood the test and they refused to change their condition as prisoners at the risk of their honour. The sepoys in Seringapatam even saved money out of the pittance allowed them as prisoners of war and brought it to administer to the wants of their officers.

(vii) The Madras Army has always been noted for the men's loyalty to their British officers. At the Siege of Arcot, for instance, where the men fed on nothing but the rice water after the rice was cooked in order to keep their British officers fed on the rice.

4. That you might say is old history but it has point, which is too often forgotten. It is well for officers from the North to remember and to see that their men remember that the British took India from the South. Their armies were from the South, the Madras and Bombay Armies. The reputation of the Madras Army stood as high as any one's in those days. Then as the frontier went North so the fighting went North and there was practically peace in the South or many a day.

In the re-organization at the end of the 19th Century the various armies remained in their own areas. The Punjab Units later remained in the North, the Bombay Army in Bombay Province but they extended right up to Zhob and Baluchistan which helped them considerably as though the Bombay Army did not thus get into the medal area of the regular frontier shows they were always on the outskirts and mixed with other units. For example the Royal Battalion M.L.I. have done 4 periods at Fort Sandeman since 1895. The Madras Army on the other hand were confined to Madras and were earmarked only for expeditions overseas.

CAUSES FOR DEGENERATION

5. The general situation of the Madras Army was therefore precisely of the kind that leads to degeneration of *esprit de corps* and of reputation—Static in a station and with mighty little chance of fighting medals or fame. Any C.O. will tell you how difficult—if not impossible it is to keep up keenness and general standard with such a prospect. The Madras Army hardly ever got the keen young officers from home posted to it. They had always applied for the Punjab Army with a view to favourable notice from Army Headquarters or a chance of action. The corollary was the numerous instances of the unsuccessful officer being transferred from the unit of their choice to a Southern regiment "to give him another chance"! After many years of this dispensation, therefore, it was hardly to be wondered at, that when Lord Kitchner came out here after the South African War to re-organize the Indian Army he was horrified at the condition of the Madras Infantry Units, and he laid down then and there that Madras Units must be reduced to a 550 establishment and never used for active service. That of course was the final straw. They lost all interest. So would you and so should I.

PIONEERS

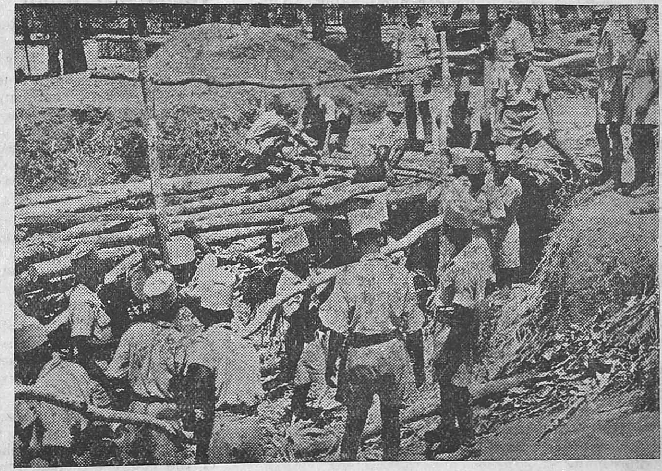
You will note that I stress Infantry. Pioneers were in a different position since being Corps Units they were always in a big station. They always had other troops about them. Consequently they did not suffer from all these deadening effects. So also the Q.V.O. Madras Sappers and Miners. Moreover the Q.V.O. Madras Sappers and Miners have always been employed all over India for whenever there is a war on Sappers are required. These officers also were keen young B.Os. of the R.E. regiment out from home on a six years' tour most of whom extended their service in India to remain in the Sappers and Miners—so there was continually fresh blood. Consequently the regiment always got its chance.

Let us proceed with the result of the main policy. The reduction of the establishment of the Madras Infantry Battalions was made in 1903 and there it remained till 1914. In 1914 there was a sudden call for troops and more troops for overseas and it was decided to form a Brigade which consists of so far as it affects us a British Battalion—a State Force Battalion, 101st Grenadiers, a Madras Pioneer Battalion and a Madras Infantry Unit which was to be brought forthwith to full strength plus 10 per cent reinforcements, etc. I know the C.O. of that Battalion very well and I saw him shortly after episode. This Battalion was then 550 strong on paper. One hundred and fifty of them were recruits unfit for service or sick. It was therefore approximately 400 strong for service. A number of the Indian Officers were passed unfit. Still the Battalion was never likely to go on service. There was no necessity to get rid of an old Indian Officer because he lost his figure. Of the B.O. there was the C.O., the Adjutant and I think one more fit for service. The remainder were mostly last-chance wallahs. To bring this Battalion up to strength drafts were called for and sent by practically every Madras Infantry Units, Officers, V.C.Os.N.-C.Os. and men, they piled in from all over India. When they arrived the first thing was to mobilize them. I forget the exact time it took but to the best of my recollection it was somewhere about three weeks before they moved, to get this hetrogenous mass medically examined, fitted out, nominal rolls made and sorted out took them all that time. Remember no one was prepared for a big show like this, least of all

(*Continued on page* 16)

MADRAS SAPPERS AND MINERS IN CEYLON

Splitting bamboos used in building huts in Ceylon.



Madras Sappers and Miners bridge-building in Ceylon.

A Madras Sapper and Miner in a diving outfit: Ceylonese help him to climb in, adjusting his life-line and keeping a constant supply of air going.

MARTIAL SPIRIT OF MADRAS

(*Continued from page 14*)

Madras Infantry and they had barely got all this part done when they were ordered to Bombay for embarkation. They were embarked on three different ships. As the C.O. said, he did not know his officers, much less either his V.C.Os. or his men, and the men did not know their N.C.Os. or officers. Here was the battalion cut into three. They put out to sea.

They were at sea for some time and then landed for attack at Tanga—just landed and went straight in! What is always remembered about Tanga so far as Madras is concerned is that they 'broke'—but that generalization is very unfair. The three portions of the battalion were trying coalasce for the first time in a most trying operation when quite another unit (*not* Madrassis) who had been previously landed, broke back through the heavy jungle in a panic-stricken mob, and dashing through and completely disorganizing the advancing battalion with their shouts that the Germans were upon them, etc., etc.

The C.O. who told me this asked me whether, given the same factors, I thought my Mahrattas would stand and honestly I could only say "I don't know, I hope so!"—and one thing I do know is that if anybody will stand the Mahrattas will stand!

Of course this incident is remembered, but what is forgotten about all this is that there was a Madras Pioneer Battalion there, too, which was in the advance guard. In that one scrap it lost 5 out of its 10 officers and 350 odd men as casualties and still went on. Moreover, subsequent to this, Madras Units served in a number of places in the last war on a number of fronts, with distinction.

Happily this unfortunate affair cannot eclipse the Madrassis' reputation. We have got the Madras Q.V.O. Sappers and Miners, and for many years had the Pioneers (which only went at the time all Pioneers went) to prove it. Those who have served with the Madras Q.V.O. Sappers and Miners and the Madras Signals in Wazristan know very well what kind of troops they are. I *have* heard it said that they are different people, just as in the Punjab you get different classes in different Units, *but that is not so*. The Madras Q.V.O. Sappers and Miners are exactly in the same position as all other Madras Units enlisted from the same classes.

My chief point is that Madrassis' reputation up to the beginning of this war has nothing to do with the *men*. Quite obviously they are all right, and I am confident that they will proudly seize the chance to recover the status which they undeservedly lost through inferior officers and general policy.

WHERE "DEAD" NERVES ARE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE

S. MUTHIAH KONAR is a typical Madrassi sepoy and like a number of other Madrassis in the army who have been unfortunate enough to fall sick or become battle casualties, he has found his way into one of the most go-ahead Indian military hospitals in the country, in Secunderabad.

Konar was very unfortunate. He was returning to his home in Thiruvettainellore, Sankarankoil taluk, Tinnevelly, from an operational area on the Burma front when he fell at a railway station and fractured his left knee.

"I am sick in hospital. It is nothing to worry about and I shall soon be well," he wrote to his mother, Kochi Muthammal. Now, however, he need have no fears for his mother's anxiety. He is walking about again with a slight limp but very soon that, too, will disappear.

An English lady is mainly responsible for Konar's rapid recovery. She is the wife of a Colonel of the Baluch Regiment. Trained as a masseur in a big London hospital, she has now turned her expert hands to the limbs of the injured sepoys.

The room which she has equipped with the enthusiastic help of the Punjabi Colonel of the hospital is looked upon by the sepoy patients as the place where rigid legs can be made to bend and "dead" nerves can be brought back to life.

On the wall is a painted sign, bearing the following message in a number of vernacular languages: "We cannot cure you but we can teach you to cure yourself." And that is exactly what is done.

Four more willing hands in this room are supplied by the wife of the Punjabi Colonel and the wife of a leading Bombay businessman.

Vibro-massage, Paradic treatment, Sino Soidal treatment—these are some of the things that may happen to injured limbs in this room. They sound fearful but cannot be so, judging by the smiles of Konar and the other patients.

Little sand bags play their part, too; and rubber balls for injured hands. All part of the lessons the sepoy is taught to make himself fit and healthy again.

VOLUNTARY WORK

Back in his ward after his daily treatment Konar is not neglected.

Nearly 40 ladies—half of them Indian ladies—spend most of the daylight hours doing voluntary work at his hospital alone. They supervise the cooking of Konar's meals; give him books to read in his own language; teach knitting (knitting is *very* popular); write letters for some of Konar's friends; play the gramophone and wireless; mark up war maps to show the Allied progress on the various battle fronts; act as a general information bureau and sort out any troubles or worries for Konar and many others like him.

Once a week they arrange for singers, jugglers and actors to come and give a show in the beautifully furnished recreation room and once a week a different party of Indian ladies visit the hospital to give cigarettes and sweets to the patients.

When he is a little better, Konar may go to the Residency where the Resident's wife gives a tea party once a week to 20 Indian soldiers and 20 British soldiers.

Konar is a typical Madrassi. The treatment he is receiving is typical of that given in this and many other Indian military hospitals where the wives of soldiers and businessmen, irrespective of race, caste or creed have come forward to help the Indian sepoy from all corners of the country on the road back to brimming health.

Without this help, that road for a number of them would not even exist.

THE ARMY BRINGS FOOD

AN M.T. Training Group somewhere in South India has within the last nine months carried one thousand eight hundred tons of jowari and rice to civilians in deficit areas.

Killing two birds with one stone is a sport practised with skill in the Army and in this the M.T. Group yields to none. Its drivers needed training. Civilians in deficit areas needed food. The drivers would in any case have to cover some hundreds of miles in the course of training. It required little persuasion for the M.T. Group to place both vehicles and drivers at the disposal of the civil authorities.

Travelling from Shimoga to Tumkur, from Rannebannur to Hubli, from Harihar to Chittaldrug, from Hubli to Jagalpur, from Chalikeri to Malikamuru, from Bhanuwalli to Chalakeri, from Bellundi to Harihar, from Chiralkolpore to Perichore, and from Narasimharajapore to Bavangore—a distance in all of 6,000 miles, the M.T. Group killed both birds and now holds a double trophy.

Its drivers are trained and they have helped the civil authorities in the job of feeding the people.

ARMY LORRY TO RESCUE

SIX LAKHS FOR CIVILIANS

When the Adjutant of an M.T. Training Centre somewhere in South India went down to the local Sub-Treasury to draw money for his group he did not know that adventure lay his way. But when he got there he found that a breach in the railway line raised a big problem for the Treasury Officer who must now hold up money urgently required at a place on the line some hundreds of miles away.

A breach in a railway line may be a serious thing but money held up, the officer thought, was even more serious. Thereupon he reported the breach to his superior officer, who detailed a lorry to assist the Treasury. Six lakhs of rupees were loaded into treasury boxes and under police escort delivered at their destination just as if the line had been in perfect working order.

"Thank God for the Army!" exclaimed the distracted Treasury Officer at the other end when he received his lakhs—and the people of the area are still thanking God for the mite that came in time.

WEEKLY JOTTINGS

By "CHRONICLER"

WAR IN THE PACIFIC

Mr. Churchill, President Roosevelt and Marshal Chiang Kei-shek met in conference at Mena House Hotel in Cairo and in the surrounding villas and after prolonged discussions, the following communiqué has been issued from Cairo on December 1, 1943:—

President Roosevelt, Generalissimo Chiang Kei-shek and Mr. Churchill with their respective military and diplomatic advisers, have completed a conference in North Africa. The following general statement is issued:—

"*The several military missions have agreed upon future military operations against Japan. The three great Allies expressed their resolve to bring unrelenting pressure against their brutal enemies by sea, land and air. This pressure is already rising. The three great Allies are fighting this war to restrain and punish the aggression of Japan. They covet no gain for themselves and have no thought of territorial expansion. It is their purpose that Japan shall be stripped of all the islands in the Pacific, which she has seized or occupied since the beginning of the first World War in 1914, and that all territories Japan has stolen from the Chinese, such as Manchuria, Formosa and the Pescadores shall be restored to the Republic of China. Japan will also be expelled from all other territories which she has taken by violence and greed.*

"*The aforesaid three Great Powers, mindful of the enslavement of the people of Korea, are determined that in due course Korea shall become free and independent. With these objectives in view, the Three Allies, in harmony with those of the United Nations at war with Japan, will continue to persevere in serious and prolonged operations necessary to procure the unconditional surrender of Japan.*"

THE CONFERENCE

President Roosevelt, Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, and Mr. Churchill had a five-day talk designed to blue-print Pacific victory and settlement of the post-war Far-Eastern world.

The three statesmen met together for the first time, surrounded by the greatest assembly of Allied military and political chiefs, including on the British side Mr. Eden, Lord Mountbatten and Mr. Hastings, Ismay, General Eisenhower also attended for some time.

The Chinese placed before the conference urgent problems, including, firstly combined strategy for the Pacific, South-East Asia and China for the quick defeat of Japan by an all-out offensive; secondly the re-opening of the Burma Road by an assault from India; thirdly supplies for the Chinese armies and peoples; and fourthly post-war reconstruction of China and help from the British and American Governments.

The British numbered more than 200 from Britain and overseas. The leaders thrashed out problems in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship. High hopes are held that machinery will soon be established for the Pacific on the lines of that set-up for Europe after the Three-Power Conference at Moscow in October.

The Chiefs of Staff had their conference in a room in which there was a huge table seating 28 persons. General Eisenhower, Sir Arthur Tadder, Sir Henry Maitland Wilson joined in the talks. The conferences of the Chiefs of Staff were kept entirely separate, but there was constant liaison between the two discussion centres. Throughout the Allied delegations kept up the programme according to which they met by themselves in the morning, assembling for a general conference in the afternoon. The conferences reached a climax when at least 30 Allied Chiefs of Staff were present, General Eisenhower sitting at the head of the table and General Marshall facing General Brooke across the centre of the table. The room was so crowded that extra rows of chairs had to be brought in.

The North African talks were a logical continuation of the Three-Power Conference at Moscow when discussions were held to shorten the war against Germany. Though the present and future military situation of the war against Japan dominated all other issues, it is believed that much time was also devoted to far-reaching considerations of economic and political problems.

MASTER PLAN FOR VICTORY AND PEACE

Marshal Stalin, President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill held their historic meeting in Teheran, and planned a super-second front to annihilate the German war power and bring early victory. The plan laid, coupled with the Far East decisions already taken in Cairo, was a plan for global victory. In four days of the most intensive conferences, the three statesmen thrashed out momentous military and political plans for winning the war and the peace. The collaboration of the three great Powers will determine the destinies of nations in the post-war world. Marshal Stalin seemed to observers to dominate the Conference. His moods varied from vivacious merriment at nightly banquets to moments of impenetrable impassivity.

PACIFIC WAR — CAIRO DECISIONS — TEHERAN DECLARATION—PACT WITH IRAN—BALKAN CONFERENCE—CZECK-RUSSIAN PACT, ETC.

A communiqué issued on December 6, 1943, says:—

"*We, the President of the United States of America, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, and the Premier of the Soviet Union, have met these four days past in this capital of our ally, Iran, and have shaped and confirmed our common policy. We expressed our determination that our nations shall work together in war and the peace that will follow. As to the war, our military staffs have joined in our Round Table discussions and have concerted our plans for the destruction of the German forces. We have reached complete agreement as to the scope and timing of the operations which will be undertaken from the east, west and south. The common understanding which we have reached guarantees that victory will be ours.*

"*And as to the peace, we are sure that our concord will make it an enduring peace. We recognize fully the supreme responsibility resting upon us and all the United Nations to make a peace which will command the goodwill of the overwhelming masses of the peoples of the world and banish the scourge of the terror of war for many generations.*

"*With our diplomatic advisers, we have surveyed problems of the future. We shall seek the co-operation and active participation of all nations, large and small, whose peoples in heart and mind are dedicated, as are our own peoples, to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance. We will welcome them as they may choose to come into the world family of democratic nations.*

"*No power on earth can prevent our destroying the German armies by land, their U-boats by sea, and their war plants from the air. Our attacks will be relentless and increasing.*

"*From these friendly conferences we look with confidence to the day when all peoples in the world may live free lives, untouched by tyranny, and according to their varying desires and their own consciences. We came here with hope and determination. We leave here friends in fact, in spirit and in purpose.*

"Signed at Tehran, December 1, 1943.

Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill."

PACT WITH IRAN

The communiqué was followed by a "declaration of the three Powers concerning Iran." Dated December 1, 1943, it reads:

"The President of U.S.A., the Premier of the U.S.S.R. and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, having consulted with each other and with the Prime Minister of Iran, desire to declare a mutual agreement of their three governments regarding their relations with Iran. The Governments of the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R. and the United Kingdom recognize the assistance which Iran has given in the prosecution of the war aganst the common enemy, particularly by facilitating the transportation of supplies from overseas to the Soviet Union. The three Governments realize that the war has caused special economic difficulties for Iran, and they are agreed that they will continue to make available to the Government of Iran such economic assistance as may be possible, having regard to the heavy demands made upon them by their worldwide military operations and worldwide shortage of transport, raw material and supplies for civilian consumption.

"With respect to the post-war period, the Governments of the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R. and the United Kingdom are in accord with the Government of Iran that any economic problem confronting Iran at the close of hostilities should receive full consideration along with those other members of the United Nations by conferences or international agencies held or created to deal with international economic matters. The Governments of the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R. and the United Kingdom are at one with the Government of Iran in their desire for the maintenance of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran. They count upon the participation of Iran, together with all other peace-loving nations, in the establishment of international peace, security and prosperity after the war in accordance with the principles of the Atlantic Charter, to which all the four Governments have continued to subscribe."

Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt with all their advisers present in North Africa, apart from Pacific Politicians and commanders, flew to Teheran on November 27.

The first meeting was dramatic. Marshal Stalin left his residence in the grounds of the Soviet Embassy and entered the Soviet Embassy to meet President Roosevelt. He stayed with the President for 90 minutes before Mr. Churchill arrived. High Staff officers called in during the talks which were throughout held in an atmosphere of great friendliness. Stalin was accompanied by Marshal Voroshilov and Molotov.

When Marshal Stalin, who had flown from the Kremlin on November 26, entered the building it was seen that his hair and moustache were now steel grey and that the Russian war had left deep lines engraved on his thickest features.

THE BALKAN CONFERENCE : COMMUNIQUE

The following communiqué was issued in Cairo on December 7, 1943, following the talks between Britain, Turkey and United States:—

"The President of the United States of America, Mr. Roosevelt, the President of the Turkish Republic, M. Ismet Ineunu and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Winston Churchill met in Cairo on December 4, 5 and 6, 1943. The Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Anthony Eden, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, M. Numan Menemencioglu and Mr. Harry Hopkins took part in the deliberations. The participation of the head of the Turkish State, in response to a cordial invitation addressed to him by the United States, British and Soviet Governments bears testimony to the strength of the alliance which united Britain and Turkey and to the firm friendship existing between the Turkish people and the United States and the Soviet Union.

"President Roosevelt and President Ineunu and Prime Minister Churchill reviewed the general political situation and examined at length their policy to be followed taking into account the joint and several interests of the three countries. A study of the programme in a spirit of understanding and loyalty showed that the closest unity existed between the United States of America, Turkey and Great Britain in their attitude to the world situation. The conversations in Cairo consequently have been most useful and most fruitful for the future relations between the four countries concerned. Identity of interest and of views of the great American and British democracies with those of the Soviet Union as also the traditional relations of friendship existing between these powers and Turkey have been reaffirmed throughout the proceedings of the Cairo Conference."

RUSSIA

All the various sectors of fighting in the Russian theatre have been busy during the last week. The battle in White Russia is mounting in intensity, and the German bridgehead defending Zhlobin and Rogachev across the Dnieper is rapidly collapsing under attacks from three sides. The Germans are now crowded into a small area on the left bank of the Dnieper, in which they have little room for manœuvre, and from which they have only one way out —a dash across a narrow railway bridge crossing the Dnieper to Zhlobin.

In the south, increasing Russian pressure at the other end of the 60-mile Cherkassy-Kremenchug sector is forcing the Germans to fight a small scale war on two fronts. The Cherkassy garrison is being aided by reinforcements which are staging counter-attacks in an attempt to prevent Russian encirclement of Cherkassy. The German position, however, is increasingly threatened from the Kremenchug end. The Germans are waging a grim struggle for the retention of their Dnieper bridgehead town of Cherkassy. In the extreme south Znamenka, the vital rail junction between Kiev and the Black Sea, connecting the Kiev and Krivoi Rog fronts, is now closely invested by strong Russian forces. This town is also the bridge between the northern and southern German armies, west of the Lower Dnieper.

ITALY

The Eighth Army is progressing along the Adriatic road in the face of German demolitions and has captured San Vito, four miles north of Fossacesia. San Vito is the coastal terminus of the Germans' former lateral supply road. The German army has also evacuated Lanciano on the Eighth Army front beyond San Vito. Lanciano stands at the junction of six roads five miles north of the river Sangro and slightly further inland. This town, together with Treglio has fallen into the hands of the Eighth Army. On the Fifth Army front the long awaited offensive has begund on the 2nd December. Six hundred and fifty guns hammered German positions and thus prepared the way for infantry attacks. The blasting fire of the Allied artillery was concentrated in the area north of Mignano. The Fifth Army Infantry men, following their incessant toil of shattering artillery fire, are now assaulting the solidly entrenched mountain defences extending on both sides of the inland road, leading through the town of Mignano to Rome. Once the gap has been forced, the Fifth Army armour can shake itself loose along the road to Rome. South of the highway the Allies already hold commanding positions on the heights of Mount Cassino. The Fifth Army has also opened a deep breach into the German winter line north and south of Mount Camino.

CZECH-RUSSIAN PACT

The Foreign Office of the Czech Government functioning in London has issued on December 3, the summary of a Czech-Russian Treaty of friendship, collaboration and mutual assistance which will be signed during the next few days. The summary says: (1) The present war against Germany and her Allies will be waged until complete victory is achieved; (2) Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union promise each other common action and mutual assistance should Germany in future renew her policy of Drang Nach Osten; (3) Immediately after this war the two countries, will inaugurate economic collaboration; (4) The treaty binds both States not to interfere in each other's political affairs; and (5) The Protocol invites participation in the treaty of the European neighbours of the Soviet Union or Czechoslovakia who have not been in the German camp in the present war.

YUGOSLAVIA

The Yugoslav Partisans, breaking with the present Yugoslav government and Mihailovitch, have formed a provisional government and parliament. This decision was taken at a delegate meeting in liberated territory at which it was also decided to form a National Committee for Liberation with all rights and functions of a provisional government. A federal constitution for Yugoslavia was agreed on in principle by the 140 delegates who attended from all parts of Yugoslavia. Dr. Ivan Ribar who was the first President of the Constitutional Assembly in Belgrade after the last war was elected President of the Parliament and head of the liberated territories. It was also made known at the conference that the mysterious Commander-in-Chief of the Yugoslav National Army of Liberation is General Josif Broz Tito. The meeting promoted him to the rank of Marshal. The movement set up by the Partisans is regarded as one based on terroristic violence by the members of the Royal Yugoslav Government and is accordingly condemned by them.

General Mihailovitch, the Yugoslav War Minister, denies, in the course of a statement issued by the Yugoslav Office of Information, that he had reached an agreement with Neditch, the Croat Quisling. The General states: "I categorically deny this baseless lie. The aim of this intrigue is to create confusion in our ranks at a moment when the Germans feel themselves threatened and when our ranks should be most firmly welded together. I have never tried, nor shall I ever attempt, to conclude any agreement either with Neditch or with the Germans."

RAID ON BERLIN

The battle of Berlin is daily growing in intensity, the fortieth raid of the year 1943 by the Royal Air Force taking place on 3rd December. It was also the ninetififth raid during the war and the fifth raid by the Royal Air Force heavy bombers in fourteen days. Forty-one of the Royal Air Force aircraft are missing. The saturation raid, however, was on the night of November 22, when 2,300 tons of bombs were dropped. In the attack on the 3rd December, over 1,500 tons of bombs were dropped over Berlin.

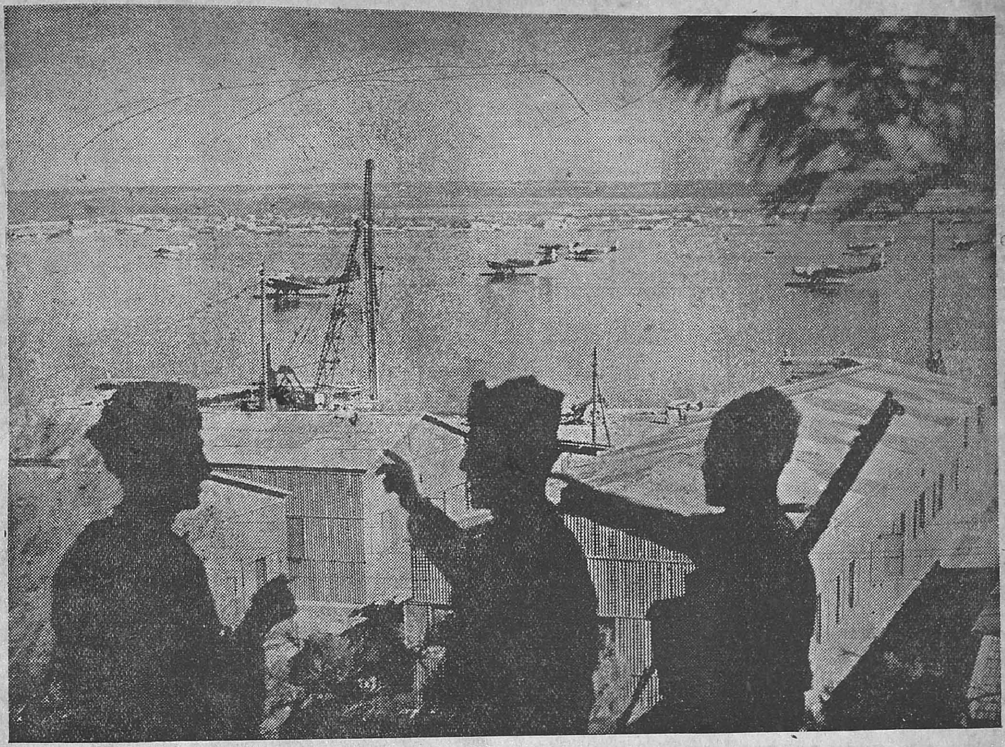
CHINA

Severe fighting continued in and around Changteh, but the Japs made no progress. American fighters supporting the Chinese in the Tungting Lake area dropped food and ammunition to the defenders of Changteh. Besides this front, another front in the Chinese theatre where fighting is still in progress is the Salween River Front in Western Yunnan. While fighting thus continues between the Chinese and the Japs, American bombers are pounding the Japanese-occupied places on the East China Coast. According to the latest message, Changteh has been occupied by the Japanese forces.

THE PACIFIC

Mr. John Curtin, the Australian, Prime Minister, held a conference with General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Allied Commander-in-Chief in the South-West Pacific, and has now issued a statement. "The discussions," the statement reads, "had particular reference to the sentence in the joint Cairo Communiqué by the United Nations' leaders pledging themselves to continue to persevere with the prolonged operations necessary to procure

(*Continued on page* 20)



INDIAN TROOPS IN ITALY.—Italian airmen show the Jawans one of their seaplane base.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

1ST DEC.—The King received the Regent of Iraq and Lord Linlithgow.

An alert was sounded in London area. Bombs fell in open country round London.

United States and Royal Air Force fighters attacked targets in western Germany. Solinger in Rhineland was bombed.

2ND DEC.—The South African Premier Field-Marshal Smuts' talk on Post-war Security is published to-day.

British aircraft attacked Berlin in the evening.

3RD DEC.—Berlin was heavily bombed.

Mr. Churchill, President Roosevelt and Marshal Stalin have arrived at Fabriz. The conference between the three leaders have opened.

4TH DEC.—Leipzig was heavily bombed. There was day-light raid on other German towns.

The Moscow radio says that the conference of President Roosevelt, Marshal Stalin and Mr. Churchill took place at Teheran a few days ago.

5TH DEC.—Mosquitoes of the Bomber Command attacked objectives in western Germany.

Royal Air Force and American planes destroyed six U-boats.

Teheran Conference is believed to have lasted four days ending on Thursday last. The final plan and time-table for a second and third front have been agreed to by munique on the Tehran Conference. A declaration of the Marshal Stalin, Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt.

6TH DEC.—The Allied Chiefs have issued a joint com-three powers concerning Iran is also published to-day.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

1ST DEC.—The Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson before the U.N.R.R.A. Council praised the unity achieved as the first real l:st of the United Nations post-war co-operation.

4TH DEC.—President Roosevelt has appointed the Ambassador to Britain, Mr. John G. Winant as the United States representative on the European Advisory Commission.

The Vice-Chairman of the United States Maritime Commission made a statement on United States ship-building progress.

Madam Chiang Kai-shek has sent a message to Congress on the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act praising its statesmanlike action.

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

1ST DEC.—As British and Indian forces thicken on the Burma front, the Japanese are compelled to adopt a more strictly defensive policy writes the Associated Press correspondent on the Arakon front.

The communique issued from South-East Asia Command gives the details of air activity over Burma for the past few days. Rangoon, Kalemyo and Chindwin areas were bombed.

2ND DEC.—His Excellency the Viceroy visited the Food Department of the Government of India at New Delhi.

3RD DEC.—Lord Louis Mountbatten returned to India and held a conference at his headquarters.

A meeting of the Executive Council of His Excellency the Viceroy met at New Delhi.

5TH DEC.—The Japanese aircraft raided Calcutta this morning.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

1ST DEC.—German defence lines south-west of Dnepropetrovsk and north-east of Krivoi Rog were shortened. Russian troops evacuated Korosten. Soviet forces occupied Narovlya and several inhabited localities. The fall of Zhlobin and Moyyr seemed imminent. Znamenka was in peril.

2ND DEC.—South and south-west of Krenenchug, the Germans withdrew under Soviet pressure. Russian troops closed in on Znamenka. A three-pronged Soviet drive towards Zhlobin and Rogachev was in progress.

A Stockholm message states that a meeting between Mr. Churchill, Marshal Stalin and President Roosevelt has already commenced at Tabriz in north-west Iran.

3RD DEC.—The whole White Russian offensive gained new momentum. Dovsk Road, pivot of the German's White Russian front is slipping from General Kluge's hand. Germans are waging a grim struggle to retain Cherkassy. Znamenka faces its gravest threat. Soviet troops have pierced German lines at several places between Soyh and Dnieper rivers. Germans are making determined new attacks to break through Russian lines protecting Kiev.

A summary of Czeck-Russian treaty of friendship about to be signed is released.

4TH DEC.—The Red Army has launched a resolute and persistent drive to clear the Germans out of White Russia. German resistance east of Zhlobin is collapsing. Znamenka is threatened.

5TH DEC.—The Russians are now within nine miles from both Rogachev and Zhlobin. Another Soviet force has reached a point 20 miles south-east of Mogilev.

6TH DEC.—Russian forces are advancing on two of the main Soviet fronts and holding firm against all German counter-attacks on a third. Three thousand Germans were killed. In their triple drive on Zhlobin, Rogachev and Mogilev the Red Army has made new alvances.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

1ST DEC.—The Eighth Army has captured Lanciano, Castel Fenanto and Casoli. It has breached the main barrier of the German winter line.

It is announced in Italy that Italian naval units are participating in the war not only in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic but also in the Pacific.

2ND DEC.—The Eighth Army has broken through the Adriatic front and pierced German defence lines. Germans are in full retreat. Foscacesia Ramognoli Ridge is completely occupied. Rocca San Giovanni has also been captured. The Fifth Army repulsed enemy counter-attacks.

3RD DEC.—The twin drive on Rome by the Fifth and Eighth Armies advanced a stage further with the capture of Castel Fentano by General Montgomery's men and advance by the Americans near Calabratto between two main western roads to Rome.

4TH DEC.—The Eighth Army is on the outskirts of San Vito. Casoli has been captured. The Fifth Army launched an attack, captured important heights and advanced two miles.

The Allied Council for Italy held its first meeting.

5TH DEC.—The Germans have recaptured Orsagno from the Eighth Army. The Fifth Army troops have broken into strong German positions on Mount Camino and Mount Maggiore.

Allied planes attacked Cos and Rhodes islands.

6TH DEC.—The Eighth Army has reached the banks of Moro river. On the Fifth Army front new heights were captured.

Fifteen Axis ships were sunk in the Mediterranean by the British submarines.

Count Ciano, ex-Foreign Minister of Italy, was executed by a firing squad.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

2ND DEC.—An air raid alarm lasting for an hour was prevalent in Copenhagen area.

Heavy Allied bombers attacked submarine pens at Marseilles.

4TH DEC.—The Yugoslav-Partisans have set up a new Provincial Government.

5TH DEC.—The new Government formed in Yugoslavia was repudiated by members of the Royal Yugoslav Government.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

3RD DEC.—Baron Von Papen is expected to reach Ankara to-day. M. Safet Arikan, the Turkish Ambassador to Germany, will leave for Berlin to-morrow after a fortnight's stay in Ankara.

4TH DEC.—It is said that the Turkish Government are said to have started preparations to arrange a meeting between the Turkish President, Ismet Inenu, and President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill. It is further stated that President Inenu has already left for Cairo.

5TH DEC.—The Bolivian Government declared war last night on the Axis powers.

6TH DEC.—According to a deplomatic correspondent in London, Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt conferred with President Inenu in North Africa. The Turkish President was accompanied by his Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister.

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THE FAR EAST

1ST DEC.—A communique issued from Cairo states:—President Roosevelt, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and Mr. Churchill with their respective military and diplomatic advisers, have completed a conference in North Africa. The several Military Missions have agreed upon future military operations against Japan. The Allied war aims in the Pacific was proclaimed.

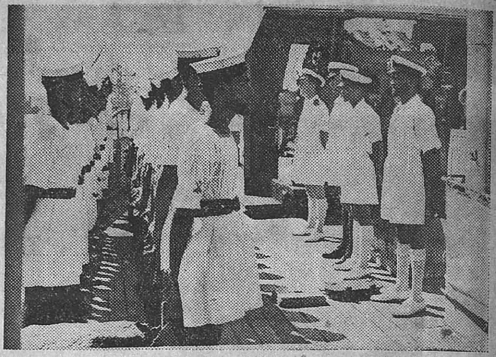
Australian troops have taken Bonga on the Huon Peninsula. Allied warships shelled Sio on New Guinea. Jap air base at Cape Gloucester and forward positions at Empress Augusta Bay were heavily bombed.

Admiral Moubetake Kondo is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Jap fleet in China waters.

2ND DEC.—An accelerated offensive against the Japanese was predicted by the United States War Secretary, Mr. H. L. Stimson. Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-shek returned from the Cairo conference.

3RD DEC.—Chinese troops recaptured Linli. Allied bombers hit two Jap destroyers, a tanker and a transport in the vicinity of Kavieng.

The Australian Prime Minister Mr. Curtin has just completed an important conference with General MacArthur. Mr. Curtin made a statement on his talks with General MacArthur.



ROYAL INDIAN NAVY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN—SUNDAY DIVISIONS.—Taking advantage of a quiet day in port, the ship's company of His Majesty's Indian ship serving in the Mediterranean is drawn up at divisions deck, ready for the Captain to make his round of inspection.

5TH DEC.—Australian troops were engaged in sharp fighting in the Huon Peninsula in New Guinea.

6TH DEC.—The Japanese counter-attacked three times in defence of Wareo in New Guinea but were repulsed. Mill Atoll in Jap-held Marshall Islands and Nauru Island were attacked by Allied bombers on Saturday.

WEEKLY JOTTINGS—*(Continued from page 18)*

the unconditional surrender of the Japanese. The discussions were conditioned on the joint realization that final victory in the Pacific must largely wait on events in Europe. The Cairo declaration tells the Australian people quite clearly that there is no short cut to victory in the Pacific." Mr. Curtin also referred to the Australian war effort which was now entering the offensive from the defensive stage, with the condition Rabaul in New Britain growing precarious as a Japanese naval and air base.

THE STALINGRAD SWORD

Marshal Stalin kissed the Stalingrad Sword—Britain's tribute to the people of Stalingrad—when the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, presented it to him at an impressive ceremony during the Taheran talks.

The ceremony was held on November 29, in the conference room. Twenty British soldiers lined one wall, facing twenty Russian sub-machine-gunners. The sword was held by a British Lieutenant with its point resting on the ground. Standing opposite was a Russian Lieutenant who was to receive it.

Mr. Churchill entered the room, bareheaded, and in the uniform of Air Commodore. Marshal Stalin entered by the door opposite, and moved quickly, and silently to the table where he stood facing Mr. Churchill. Marshal Stalin's face was as impressive as a mask. He wore the beige-coloured uniform of a Marshal of the Soviet Union, with the Ribbon and Star of the Hero of the Soviet Union. President Roosevelt also entered the room and sat in an arm-chair. Behind Marshal Stalin stood M. Molotov, and Marshal Voroshilov. The Russian band struck up the Internationale, and then the British the National Anthem.

Mr. Churchill stood at the salute, and Marshal Stalin raised his right hand, with fingers half clenched, to about eight inches from his head. Mr. Churchill then said: "Marshal Stalin, I have the command of His Majesty to present to you, for transmission to the city of Stalingrad, this sword of honour, of which His Majesty himself has approved the design. This blade bears on it the inscription:

To the steelhearted citizens of Stalingrad, from King George the Sixth, in token of the homage of the British people.'"

Marshal Stalin replied in a low voice, expressing appreciation of gift, and the pleasure felt by the Russian people of this gesture of the British.

A British Lieutenant then stepped forward ten paces carrying the sword with the point upwards. He handed it to Mr. Churchill who passed it to Marshal Stalin.

Marshal Stalin drew the blade, touched it with his lips, and then passed it to Marshal Voroshilov, hero of Stalingrad.

A Russian Lieutenant then took the sword, and stood with it at the head of the Russian Guard.

The ceremony completed, Marshal Stalin showed the sword to President Roosevelt, who said "Stalingrad has truly a heart of steel."

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